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(54) **SURFACE ENHANCED OPHTHALMIC LENS**

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See application file for complete search history.

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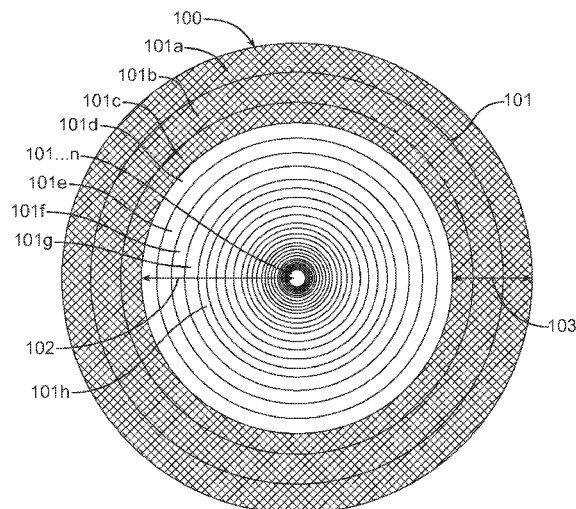
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(57) **ABSTRACT**

This invention discloses methods and apparatus for providing
an ophthalmic lens with a textured pattern within an optic
zone and an ophthalmic lens with a textured pattern within the
optic zone.

6 Claims, 5 Drawing Sheets



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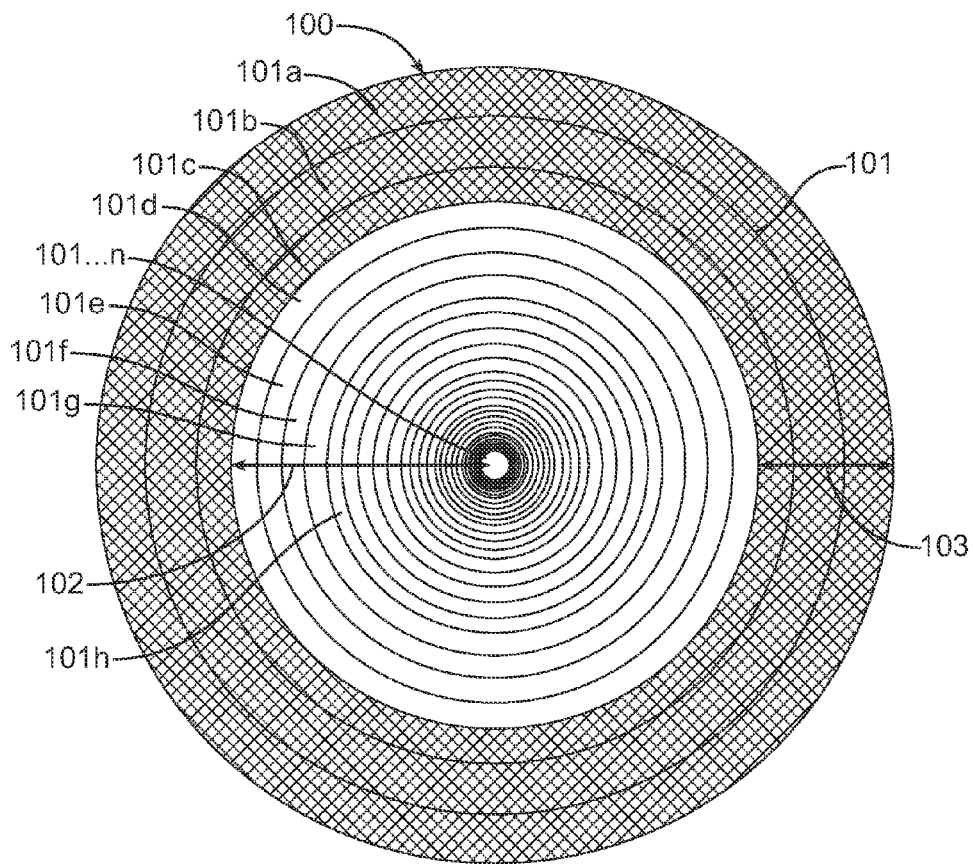


FIG. 1A

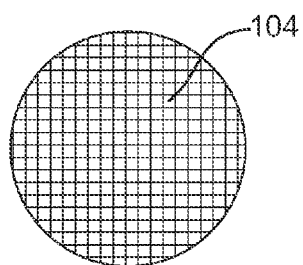


FIG. 1B

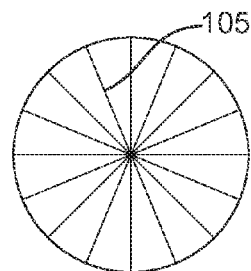


FIG. 1C

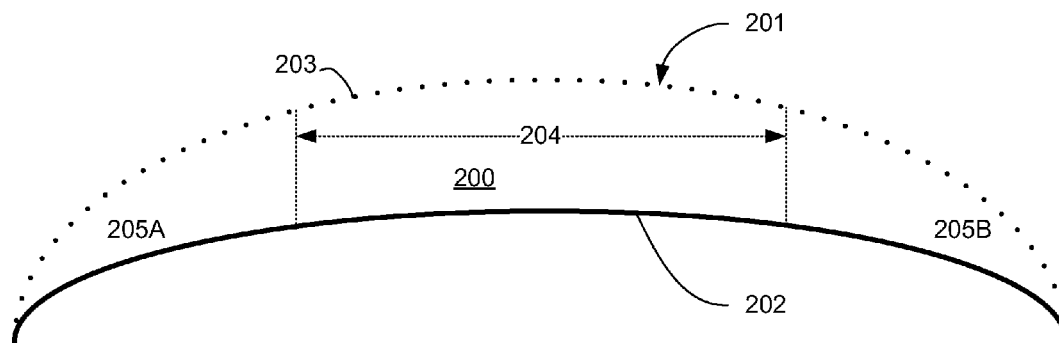


FIG. 2

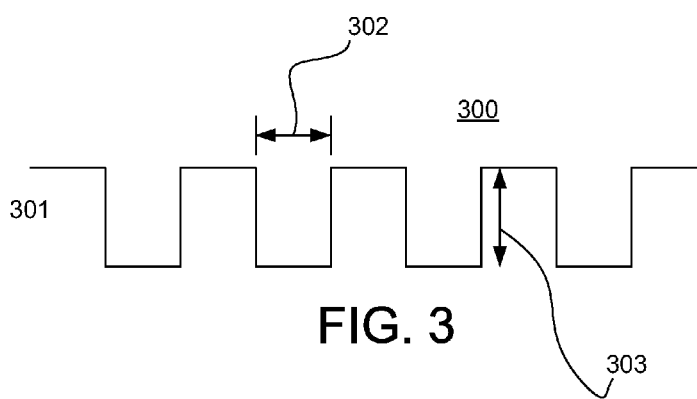


FIG. 3

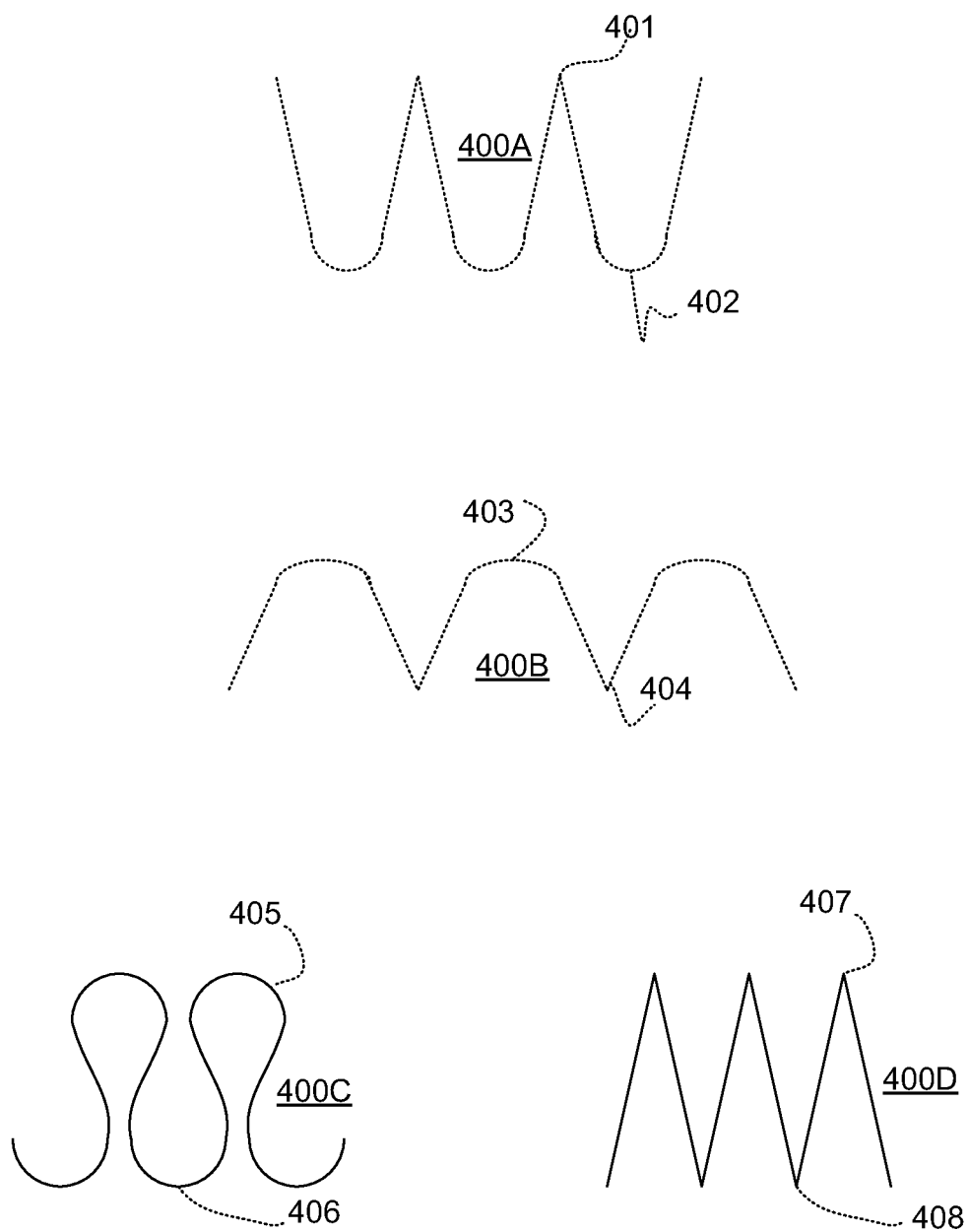


FIG. 4

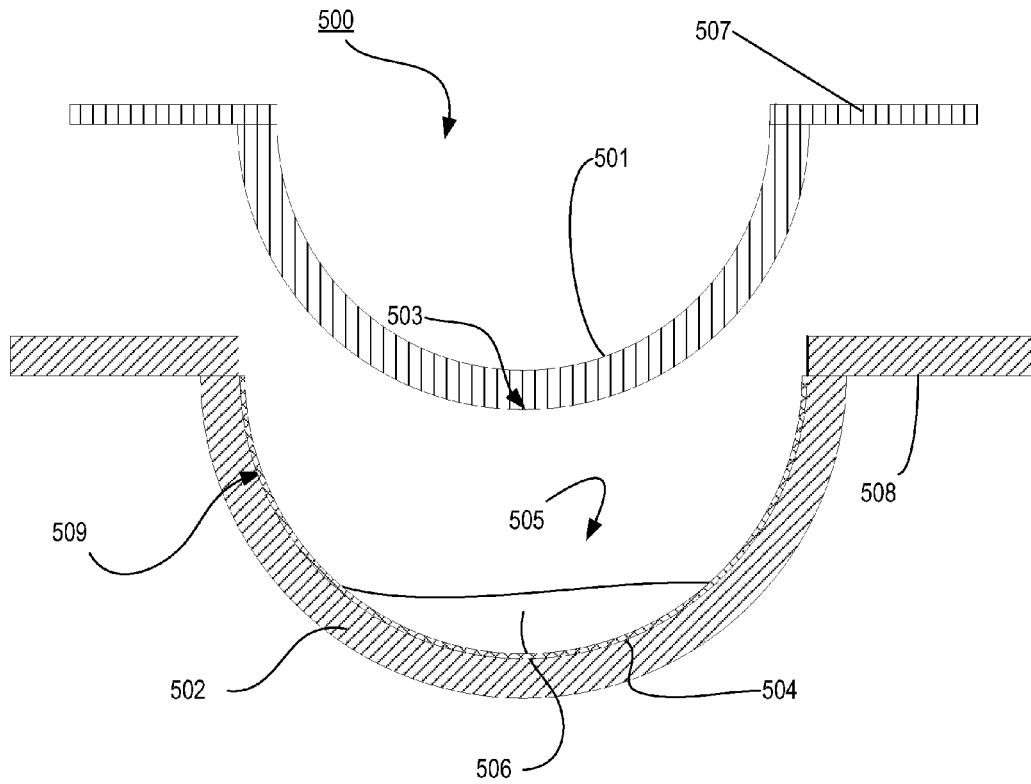


FIG. 5

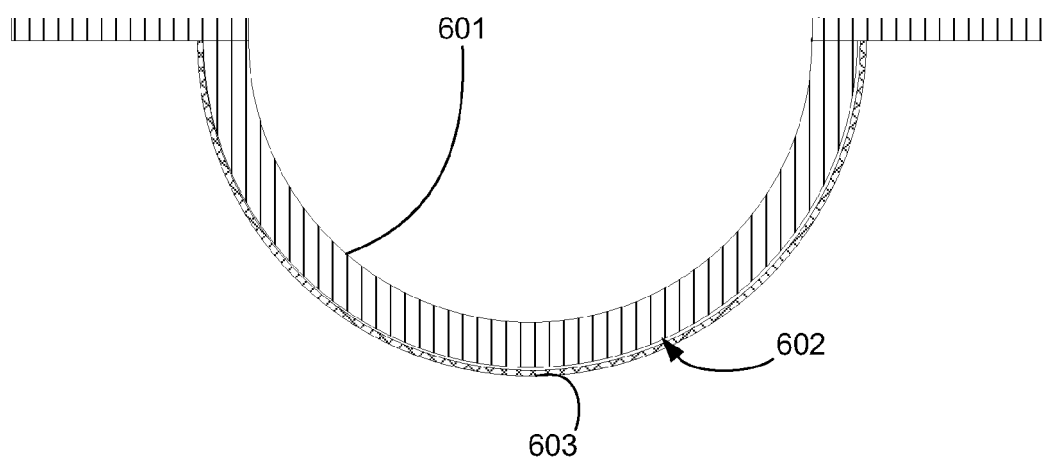


FIG. 6

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SURFACE ENHANCED OPHTHALMIC LENS**RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application claims priority to Provisional U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 61/330,928, filed on May 4, 2010.

FIELD OF USE

This invention describes an ophthalmic lens with one or more textured surfaces and, more specifically, in some embodiments, a contact lens with a concentric patterned textured convex surface.

BACKGROUND

Traditionally an ophthalmic device, such as a contact lens included a biocompatible material with a corrective, cosmetic or therapeutic quality. A contact lens, for example, can provide one or more of: vision correcting functionality; cosmetic enhancement; and therapeutic effects. Each function is provided by a physical characteristic of the lens. A design incorporating a refractive quality into a lens can provide a vision corrective function. A pigment incorporated into the lens can provide a cosmetic enhancement. An active agent incorporated into a lens can provide a therapeutic functionality.

The sensitive nature of an ophthalmic area on a human has resulted in comfort being an important characteristic of a lens. Various lens materials are often associated with varying levels of comfort. In addition, an industry has been developed for ophthalmic drops and additives to lenses to address the comfort issue.

Another important quality of a lens is the optical quality of a lens which influences how well an ophthalmic lens wearer will see while wearing a particular lens. Traditionally, a lens material as well as a lens design may affect the experience of an ophthalmic lens wearer while utilizing the lenses.

Although an experience of wearing ophthalmic lenses has made advancements in regard to comfort and optical quality, there still exists a need to further improve the experience of an ophthalmic lens wearer. New materials and ophthalmic solutions introduce many variables which are not always easy to quantify. In addition, new materials and solutions, although beneficial, often require significant amounts of time and resources in order to receive government approvals and be presented to a lens wearer.

Some designs of contact lenses have included different characteristics of a convex surface and a concave surface. For example, it has been known to have a contact lens with one radius of curvature on each of the front optical surface and another radius of curvature on the back surface of the lens. One disadvantage of this prior art approach is that light rays passing through the peripheral areas of the lens tend to focus in the eye in front of those passing through the center of the lens. This prior art approach restricts its depth-of-focus or field, and the quality of the optical image formed.

Other prior art examples include a multifocal contact lens having a spherical curve in the center region of the concave surface and an aspheric curve which surrounds the center spherical region. A disadvantage of this contact lens design is the use of corrective aspheric radii, which are difficult to measure and manufacture in practice.

SUMMARY

Accordingly, the present invention includes an ophthalmic device, such as a contact lens, with an improved design for

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enhancing the experience of the contact lens wearer. Generally, according to the present invention, a contact lens is formed with a carefully controlled texture on the lens surface. The texture is included across an optic zone of the contact lens. In some embodiments, the texture is formed with dimensions conducive to increasing the wettability of the lens surface. Some embodiments are also useful to manage a pattern of tear fluid on the lens surface.

In another aspect, some embodiments include a texture pattern that increases an uptake of beneficial proteins thereby increasing a comfort level associated with wearing the lens.

Accordingly, some embodiments of the present invention include an ophthalmic lens cast molded from a reactive monomer mix. Lenses are formed via the control of actinic radiation to which the reactive monomer mixture is exposed.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. 1A illustrates an exemplary embodiment of an ophthalmic lens with a surface texture.

FIG. 1B illustrates an exemplary surface texture including a cross hatch pattern.

FIG. 1C illustrates an exemplary surface texture including a radial pattern.

FIG. 2 illustrates cross section of an exemplary embodiment of an ophthalmic lens with a surface.

FIG. 3 illustrates a close up of some dimensions of a textured pattern.

FIG. 4 illustrates exemplary patterns of a patterned texture.

FIG. 5 illustrates an exemplary mold system with two mold parts for forming a lens according to the present invention.

FIG. 6 illustrates an exemplary mold part with a convex surface for forming a lens according to the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The present invention includes biomedical devices, such as ophthalmic lenses and in particular, the present invention includes an ophthalmic lens with an Energy Source incorporated into a biomedical device, such as an ophthalmic lens. The description of both preferred and alternative embodiments are exemplary embodiments only, and it is understood that to those skilled in the art that variations, modifications and alterations may be apparent. It is therefore to be understood that said exemplary embodiments do not limit the scope of the underlying invention.

GLOSSARY

In this description and claims directed to the presented invention, various terms may be used for which the following definitions will apply:

Lens: As used herein “lens” refers to any ophthalmic device that resides in or on the eye. These devices can provide optical correction or may be cosmetic. For example, the term lens can refer to a contact lens, intraocular lens, overlay lens, ocular insert, optical insert or other similar device through which vision is corrected or modified, or through which eye physiology is cosmetically enhanced (e.g. iris color) without impeding vision. In some embodiments, the preferred lenses of the invention are soft contact lenses are made from silicone elastomers or hydrogels, which include but are not limited to silicone hydrogels, and fluorohydrogels.

Lens Forming Mixture: As used herein, the term “lens forming mixture” or “Reactive Mixture” or “RMM” (reactive monomer mixture) refers to a monomer or prepolymer material which can be cured and crosslinked or crosslinked to form

an ophthalmic lens. Various embodiments can include lens forming mixtures with one or more additives such as: UV blockers, tints, photoinitiators or catalysts, and other additives one might desire in an ophthalmic lenses such as, contact or intraocular lenses.

Optic Zone: As used herein, the term “optic zone” refers to an area of an ophthalmic lens through which an ophthalmic lens wearer sees while wearing the ophthalmic lens on, near or in the eye in a normally prescribed fashion.

Peripheral Zone: As used herein, the term “peripheral zone” or “non-optic zone” refers to an area of an ophthalmic lens outside of the optic zone of the ophthalmic lens, and therefore outside of a portion of the ophthalmic lens through which a lens wearer sees while wearing the ophthalmic lens on, near or in the eye in a normally prescribed fashion.

In general, the present invention includes an ophthalmic lens with a textured surface. In some embodiments, an ophthalmic device includes an optic zone through which a wearer of the lens would see. A textured pattern may be located one or both of within the optic zone and exterior to the optic zone. Other embodiments can include a mold part used for cast molding an ophthalmic lens wherein the mold part includes a relief of a pattern to be formed on the ophthalmic lens. Still further embodiments include steel molding that may be utilized to form plastic mold parts for cast molding an ophthalmic lens.

Ophthalmic Lens Device

Referring now to FIG. 1A, a top down view of an exemplary ophthalmic lens **100** according to the present invention is illustrated. The lens **100** includes a patterned texture **101** formed into the lens **100**. In some embodiments, and as illustrated, the patterned texture **101** includes a series of concentric or generally concentric indentations or grooves **101a-101h** and so on to **101 . . . n** wherein **n** is a number of concentric circular grooves. The grooves **101a-101 . . . n** of the patterned texture **101** are formed in the surface of the soft lens material at a depth and spacing that increases wettability of the surface and does not obstruct normal vision through the lens.

The expression “generally concentric” grooved pattern is meant to designate one or more spiral pattern that includes a continuous groove that spirals about a center point. At a given cross section, the spiral pattern may appear as a concentric circle pattern; however, a spiral is contiguous groove or indentation. In some embodiments, multiple spiral patterns with a same or proximate center point may be utilized.

Accordingly, the patterned texture **101** may continue through a portion or the entirety of an optic zone **102** of the lens **100**. In addition, the patterned texture **101** may be present in a portion or the entirety of a peripheral zone **103** of the lens **100**.

FIG. 1A illustrates some specific embodiments with concentric circles; FIG. 1B and FIG. 1C illustrate additional embodiments with various textured patterns **104-105**. FIG. 1B illustrates a textured pattern **104** that is generally a cross hatch pattern and FIG. 1C includes radial channels or grooves **105** from a center point. Other patterns are also within the scope of the present invention, including a stochastic “pattern”. Generally, any constraints of a shape of patterned texture **101a-101 . . . n**, **104**, **105** may be related to a manufacturing method and lens material. For example, a cast molding manufacturing process may be more compatible with a concentric textured pattern and a cross hatch or stochastic pattern may be more available via a freeform manufacturing processes.

According to the present invention, a patterned texture **101a-101 . . . n**, **104**, **105** includes grooves or indentations of

sufficient depth and frequency to improve wettability of a lens surface (as described more completely below) while a lens is worn by a lens wearer and includes a depth shallow enough to allow a lens wearer to see through the lens clearly.

Traditionally, any surface modifications have been limited to areas outside of the optic zone. Such designs adhered to the generally accepted notion that a human eye will perceive the aberrations on the surface of the lens introduced by the patterned texture **101a-101 . . . n**, **104**, **105** or that the patterned texture **101a-101 . . . n**, **104**, **105** will introduce artifacts into the vision experience, such as rainbows, rings, or vision distortion. However, according to the present invention, a patterned texture **101a-101 . . . n**, **104**, **105**, may be introduced into an optic zone without any substantial adverse affect to vision, and in some embodiments, an improvement in vision. By way of non-limiting explanation, it is theorized that a lens wearer’s own tear fluid fills the pattern and provides a satisfactory or improved optical vision experience. In addition, the tear fluid provides an improved wearer experience.

In addition, in some embodiments, a patterned surface texture **101a-101 . . . n**, **104**, **105** provides more surface area for uptake of beneficial proteins from the tear fluid as compared to a smooth surface. The increase in surface area improves a comfort level associated with wearing an ophthalmic lens **100** with a patterned texture **101a-101 . . . n**, **104**, **105**.

Referring now to FIG. 2, a cross section of an ophthalmic lens **200** according to the present invention is illustrated. The lens **200** has a back curve or concave surface **202** and a front curve or convex surface **203**. According to the present invention, the convex surface **203** includes a textured pattern **201** within an optic zone **204** area. In some embodiments, the textured pattern **201** may also be in an area outside the optic zone **205A-205B**.

Referring now to FIG. 3, a close up view of a textured pattern according to some embodiments is illustrated. The textured pattern **300** generally includes multiple channels or grooves or other geometric indentation with a depth **303** and a width **302**. In some embodiments, a depth is two microns or less. Depending upon a material and the structural shape of a textured pattern, some embodiments may result in increased comfort with a textured pattern of two microns or less and some preferred embodiments include a simple digital structural shape with a depth of five hundred nanometers (0.5 microns) or less. The textured pattern illustrated in FIG. 3 is generally conducive to patterns with groove type artifacts, other patterns are also within the scope of the invention.

Referring now to FIG. 4, exemplary structural shapes included within a textured pattern are illustrated. In some embodiments, a textured pattern **400A** may include a relatively pointed top portion **401** which is situated along an exterior most area of a textured pattern **400A** and a generally rounded portion **402** along a more interior portion of a textured pattern **400A**.

Another textured pattern **400B** includes a relatively rounded top portion **403** situated along an exterior most area of a textured pattern **400B** and a generally pointed portion **404** along a more interior portion of a textured pattern **400B**.

Still other embodiments may include textured pattern **400C** including a relatively rounded top portion **405** situated along an exterior most area of a textured pattern **400C** and a generally rounded portion **406** along a more interior portion of a textured pattern **400C**.

Additional embodiments may include textured pattern **400D** including a relatively pointed top portion **407** situated

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along an exterior most area of a textured pattern **400D** and a generally pointed portion **408** along a more interior portion of a textured pattern **400D**.

Referring now to FIG. 5, a diagram of an exemplary mold for an ophthalmic lens is illustrated. As used herein, the terms “mold” and “mold assembly” refer to a form **500** having a cavity **505** into which a lens forming mixture can be dispensed such that upon reaction or cure of the lens forming mixture **506** an ophthalmic lens of a desired shape is produced. The molds and mold assemblies **500** of this invention are made up of more than one “mold parts” or “mold pieces” **501-502**. The mold parts **501-502** can be brought together such that a cavity **505** is formed between the mold parts **501-502** in which a lens can be formed. This combination of mold parts **501-502** is preferably temporary. Upon formation of the lens, the mold parts **501-502** can again be separated for removal of the lens.

At least one mold part **501-502** has at least a portion of its surface **503-504** in contact with the lens forming mixture such that upon reaction or cure of the lens forming mixture that surface **503-504** provides a desired shape and form to the portion of the lens with which it is in contact. The same is true of at least one other mold part **501-502**.

Thus, for example, in a preferred embodiment a mold assembly **500** is formed from two parts **501-502**, a female concave piece (front piece) **502** and a male convex piece (back piece) **501** with a cavity formed between them. The portion of the concave surface **504** which makes contact with lens forming mixture has the curvature of the front curve of an ophthalmic lens to be produced in the mold assembly **500** and is sufficiently smooth and formed such that the surface of an ophthalmic lens formed by polymerization of the lens forming mixture which is in contact with the concave surface **504** is optically acceptable.

According to the present invention, one or both of the mold parts **501-502** includes a textured pattern **509** on a surface that comes into contact with lens forming mixture **506** deposited into the mold cavity **505**. As illustrated, the textured pattern **509** is included on the concave surface **504**. The mold textured pattern **509** becomes a relief of a pattern imparted into a lens formed by the mold system **500**. A lens formed from a mold part as illustrated will have a textured pattern on a convex front curve surface of the ophthalmic lens. The textured pattern may be formed into the mold part **502**, via an injection mold, a lathing process, a laser ablation process or other method of forming plastic.

In some embodiments, the front mold piece **502** can also have an annular flange integral with and surrounding circular circumferential edge **508** and extends from it in a plane normal to the axis and extending from the flange (not shown).

The back mold piece **501** has a central curved section with a convex surface **503** and circular circumferential edge **507**, wherein the portion of the convex surface **503** in contact with the lens forming mixture has the curvature of the back curve of an ophthalmic lens to be produced in the mold assembly **500** and is sufficiently smooth and formed such that the surface of an ophthalmic lens formed by reaction or cure of the lens forming mixture in contact with the back surface **503** is optically acceptable. Accordingly, the inner concave surface **504** of the front mold piece **502** defines the outer surface of the ophthalmic lens, while the outer convex surface **503** of the base mold half **501** defines the inner surface of the ophthalmic lens.

Referring now to FIG. 6, in some embodiments, a mold part **601** may include a convex surface with a textured pattern **603** imparted into the convex surface **602**. In such embodiments,

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an ophthalmic lens formed with the mold part **601**, will include a textured pattern on a concave back curve surface.

Preferred embodiments of a mold material include polyolefin; cyclic olefin; alicyclic polyolefin and cyclic olefin polymers (sometimes referred to as “COC”); including, in some embodiments polyolefins and COCs.

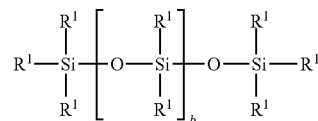
In some preferred methods of making molds **500** according to the present invention, injection molding is utilized according to known techniques, however, embodiments can also include molds fashioned by other techniques including, for example: lathing, diamond turning, or laser cutting.

Typically, lenses are formed on at least one surface of both mold parts **501-502**. However, if need be one surface of the lenses may be formed from a mold part **501-502** and the other lens surface can be formed using a lathing method, or other methods.

As used herein “lens forming surface” means a surface **503-504** that is used to mold a lens. In some embodiments, any such surface **503-504** can have an optical quality surface finish, which indicates that it is sufficiently smooth and formed so that a lens surface fashioned by the polymerization of a lens forming material in contact with the molding surface is optically acceptable. Further, in some embodiments, the lens forming surface **503-504** can have a geometry that is necessary to impart to the lens surface the desired optical characteristics, including without limitation, spherical, aspherical and cylinder power, wave front aberration correction, corneal topography correction and the like as well as any combinations thereof.

In some embodiments, a Reactive Mixture which forms a lens material can include a silicone containing component. A “silicone-containing component” is one that contains at least one $[-Si-O-]$ unit in a monomer, macromer or prepolymer. Preferably, the total Si and attached O are present in the silicone-containing component in an amount greater than about 20 weight percent, and more preferably greater than 30 weight percent of the total molecular weight of the silicone-containing component. Useful silicone-containing components preferably comprise polymerizable functional groups such as acrylate, methacrylate, acrylamide, methacrylamide, vinyl, N-vinyl lactam, N-vinylamide, and styryl functional groups.

Suitable silicone containing components include compounds of Formula I



where

R^1 is independently selected from monovalent reactive groups, monovalent alkyl groups, or monovalent aryl groups, any of the foregoing which may further comprise functionality selected from hydroxy, amino, oxo, carboxy, alkyl carboxy, alkoxy, amido, carbamate, carbonate, halogen or combinations thereof; and monovalent siloxane chains comprising 1-100 Si—O repeat units which may further comprise functionality selected from alkyl, hydroxy, amino, oxo, carboxy, alkyl carboxy, alkoxy, amido, carbamate, halogen or combinations thereof;

where $b=0$ to 500, where it is understood that when b is other than 0, b is a distribution having a mode equal to a stated value;

wherein at least one R¹ comprises a monovalent reactive group, and in some embodiments between one and 3 R¹ comprise monovalent reactive groups.

As used herein "monovalent reactive groups" are groups that can undergo free radical and/or cationic polymerization. Non-limiting examples of free radical reactive groups include (meth)acrylates, styryls, vinyls, vinyl ethers, C₁₋₆alkyl(meth)acrylates, (meth)acrylamides, C₁₋₆alkyl(meth)acrylamides, N-vinyl lactams, N-vinyl amides, C₂₋₁₂alkenyls, C₂₋₁₂alkenylphenyls, C₂₋₁₂alkenylphenyls, C₂₋₆alkenylphenylC₁₋₆alkyls, O-vinyl carbamates and O-vinyl carbonates. Non-limiting examples of cationic reactive groups include vinyl ethers or epoxide groups and mixtures thereof. In one embodiment the free radical reactive groups comprises (meth)acrylate, acryloxy, (meth)acrylamide, and mixtures thereof.

Suitable monovalent alkyl and aryl groups include unsubstituted monovalent C₁ to C₁₆alkyl groups, C₆-C₁₄ aryl groups, such as substituted and unsubstituted methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, 2-hydroxypropyl, propoxypropyl, polyethyleneoxypropyl, combinations thereof and the like.

In one embodiment b is zero, one R¹ is a monovalent reactive group, and at least 3 R¹ are selected from monovalent alkyl groups having one to 16 carbon atoms, and in another embodiment from monovalent alkyl groups having one to 6 carbon atoms. Non-limiting examples of silicone components of this embodiment include 2-methyl-, 2-hydroxy-3-[3-[1,3,3,3-tetramethyl-1-[(trimethylsilyl)oxy]disiloxanyl]propoxy]propyl ester ("SiGMA"), 2-hydroxy-3-methacryloxypropyloxypropyl-tris(trimethylsiloxy)silane, 3-methacryloxypropyltris(trimethylsiloxy)silane ("TRIS"), 3-methacryloxypropylbis(trimethylsiloxy)methylsilane and 3-methacryloxypropylpentamethyl disiloxane.

In another embodiment, b is 2 to 20, 3 to 15 or in some embodiments 3 to 10; at least one terminal R¹ comprises a monovalent reactive group and the remaining R¹ are selected from monovalent alkyl groups having 1 to 16 carbon atoms, and in another embodiment from monovalent alkyl groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms. In yet another embodiment, b is 3 to 15, one terminal R¹ comprises a monovalent reactive group, the other terminal R¹ comprises a monovalent alkyl group having 1 to 6 carbon atoms and the remaining R¹ comprise monovalent alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms. Non-limiting examples of silicone components of this embodiment include (mono-(2-hydroxy-3-methacryloxypropyl)-propyl ether terminated polydimethylsiloxane (400-1000 MW)) ("OH-mPDMS"), monomethacryloxypropyl terminated mono-n-butyl terminated polydimethylsiloxanes (800-1000 MW), ("mPDMS").

In another embodiment b is 5 to 400 or from 10 to 300, both terminal R¹ comprise monovalent reactive groups and the remaining R¹ are independently selected from monovalent alkyl groups having 1 to 18 carbon atoms which may have ether linkages between carbon atoms and may further comprise halogen.

In one embodiment, where a silicone hydrogel lens is desired, the lens of the present invention will be made from a

reactive mixture comprising at least about 20 and preferably between about 20 and 70 percent weight silicone containing components based on total weight of reactive monomer components from which the polymer is made.

Although invention may be used to provide hard or soft contact lenses made of any known lens material, or material suitable for manufacturing such lenses. More preferably, the lenses are made of monomers containing hydroxy groups, carboxyl groups, or both or be made from silicone-containing polymers, such as siloxanes, hydrogels, silicone hydrogels, and combinations thereof. Material useful for forming the lenses of the invention may be made by reacting blends of macromers, monomers, and combinations thereof along with additives such as polymerization initiators. Suitable materials include, without limitation, silicone hydrogels made from silicone macromers and hydrophilic monomers.

CONCLUSION

The present invention, as described above and as further defined by the claims below, provides methods of processing ophthalmic lenses and apparatus for implementing such methods, as well as ophthalmic lenses formed thereby.

We claim:

1. An ophthalmic device comprising:

a lens having an optic zone and a peripheral zone;

a convex front curve surface and a concave back curve surface; and

a textured pattern formed into one or both of the convex front curve surface and the concave back curve surface at a depth and spacing that increases the wettability of the surface thereby improving comfort and does not obstruct normal vision through the device or alter the focal power of the lens, the textured pattern is a non-periodic structure and is formed at least within the optic zone and comprises a single, continuous groove that spirals about a center point formed in the convex front curve surface, wherein the single, continuous groove that spirals about a center point comprises a cross-sectional shape having a rounded top portion positioned along an exterior area of textured pattern and a pointed bottom portion positioned along an interior portion of the textured pattern.

2. The lens of claim 1, wherein the textured pattern is additionally formed within the peripheral zone.

3. The lens of claim 2 wherein the ophthalmic lens comprises a silicon hydrogel material.

4. The lens of claim 2 wherein the textured pattern comprises a depth of about two microns or less.

5. The lens of claim 2 wherein the textured pattern comprises a depth of about 0.5 microns or less.

6. The lens of claim 1 where the ophthalmic lens comprises at least one of: etafilcon, senofilcon, galyfilcon and narafilcon.

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